

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10

AID-05 /080 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2593

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LUSAKA 0025

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AO ZA

SUBJECT: ZAMBIANS SKEPTICAL OF SOVIETS BUT WANT TO HELP THEM

WITHDRAW

REFS: MOSCOW 13; STATE 1447

1. SUMMARY. ZAMBIANS QUESTION SOVIET SINCERITY ON ANGOLA BUT WANT TO HELP SOVIETS FIND FACE-SAVING WAY FOR GRACEFUL WITHDRAWAL IF PRAVDA'S WORDS ENDORSED BY SOVIET LEADERSHIP AND IF LANGUAGE CAN BE FOUND TO WHICH SOVIETS AND AFRICANS COULD AGREE REGARDING SOVIET INTENTIONS. URGENTLY REQUEST DEPT'S LEGAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN SEARCH FOR ACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE WHICH ZAMBIANS MIGHT BE WILLING TO USE AT OAU SUMMIT. END SUMMARY.

2. ON ORDERS FROM STATE HOUSE, ZAMBIAN PRESS HAS GIVEN PROMINENT PLAY TO PRAVDA SUGGESTION THAT OFFICIAL SOVIET
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LINE TENDING TO BECOME MORE CONCILIATORY SO AS TO

SIGNAL RUSSIANS OPPORTUNITY OPEN TO THEM FOR GRACEFUL
EXIT PLEASING TO AFRICANS IF SOVIETS SINCERE IN
SPEAKING OF ENDING INTERVENTION AND ALLOWING ANGOLAN
PEOPLE TO DECIDE THEIR FUTURE. BUT RUNNING
THROUGH ZAMBIAN NEWS AND EDITORIAL COVERAGE HAS BEEN
FAINTEST NOTE OF CAUTION AND SKEPTICISM IN SEEKING
OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OF PRAVDA LINE BY SOVIET LEADERS
THEMSELVES.

3. THIS CAUTION AND SKEPTICISM REFLECTS STRONG MISGIVINGS
ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS WHICH PRES KAUNDA AND CHONA HAVE
PRIVATELY EXPRESSED TO ME. I INTEND TALKING WITH CHONA
BEFORE FULL ZAMBIAN DELEGATION LEAVES FOR ADDIS IN HOPES OF
ENCOURAGING HIM TO ELABORATE DRAFT AFRICAN DEFINITIONS OF "WITH-
DRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES" AND ALLOWING "PEOPLE TO DECIDE OWN
FATE" TO WHICH AFRICANS AND SOVIETS COULD AGREE. CHONA SO
PRESSED FOR TIME, SHORT OF STAFF AND BUSY TRYING TO GET
SIGNED, WRITTEN UNDERSTANDING WITH SOVIETS HERE ON TERMS
OF HIS JAN 1 CONVERSATION WITH THEM (LUSAKA 8) THAT WE EXPECT
HE WILL LOOK TO US FOR SUGGESTED WORDING IN FIRST INSTANCE.
COULD DEPT'S LEGAL AND SOVIET EXPERTS PROVIDE US WITH THIS
ON URGENT BASIS?

WILKOWSKI

SECRET

NNN

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